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Between the Lines—

'Free Lance' Raids

By Edith Kermit Roosevelt



Among the Cubans now in our government payroll are Jose Miro Cardona, who heads the State Department backed Revolutionary Council. The State Department has also dispatched Sergio Rojas, ex Castro ambassador to Great Britain, on a one-year jaunt to Berlin and Israel "to study economic reconstruction."

NEW YORK — The Central Intelligence Agency has set up a "controlled opposition" movement to Fidel Castro. The purpose? To insure that no genuinely effective action against communism in Cuba ever occurs.

This charge is made by Alex Rorke, Jr., New York documentary film producer and lecturer, who coordinates daring "free lance" raids against Cuba with Oscar Mestre, Rod Portuondo and other Cubans who took part in last year's abortive Cuban invasion.

Rorke's group, the U.S. Freedom Fighters (P.O. Box 1812, New York City) has information that out of 400 Cubans sent by CIA to Cuba in the last six months about 320 men or 80 per cent have been captured and killed by Castro's police.

"THESE MEN who are being sent to an almost certain death are a trained, educated elite of potential leaders," says Rorke, a former U.S. military intelligence specialist.

Government funds are going to a few discredited Cuban exile politicians purely for "study" and "propaganda", he adds, but at the same time the CIA is planting agents in all Cuban exile groups to see to it that no military action is organized to liberate Cuba. Arms are confiscated and some of the more militant Cubans have been recruited supposedly for action in Cuba. But these Cuban patriots are forced to remain idle and isolated in military camps while every day their countrymen are murdered and the young children of Cuba deported to Soviet Russia.

THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS oppose the CIA policy of attempting to organize a large underground in Cuba. Large undergrounds are easily infiltrated and betrayed in a total police state. Furthermore, the CIA is giving its Cuban agents so much money compared to the average Cuban that it is little wonder that they are so easily detected by Castro's G2 when they are infiltrated into Cuba.

U.S. Freedom Fighters, on the other hand, organize "phantom cells" in Cuba, cells of from one to five persons, who carry out sabotage. Only last week, Cuban guerrillas were infiltrated in 40-foot boats by U.S. Freedom Fighters to aid rebels in the Matanzas Province.

They were sent to exploit last fall's phantom cell operation within the province which resulted from leaflet raids by Rorke and Bill Johnson, Bill Wall, and Frank Fiorini, all of Miami.

AS A RESULT, reported Dan Brigham, aviation editor of the New York Journal American, Castro ordered an extra 25,000 soldiers into the Matanzas to help stamp out resistance.

(Tense radio reports from the rebels claimed a quarter of Castro's troops were wiped out en route.)

But in the last few weeks Cuban patriots and their American helpers — many of whom are ex military officers and college students — have been subjected to repeated harassment by our government. Boatloads of freedom fighters have been halted far out at sea and turned back by the U.S. Coast Guard under State Department and CIA orders.

ANGRY FREEDOM FIGHTERS point out that even while their boats are confiscated the Cuban ships, Fundador and Bahla de Nipe cruise the coast of Central and South America delivering weapons and Communist literature from the FIN in North Africa.

Freedom fighters don't ask for help from the United States government. They only want to be left alone to do the job of overthrowing Castro themselves. It is natural that Cuban fighters do not wish interference from Washington after the CIA's bungled invasion attempt which needlessly cost so many Cuban lives. Furthermore, the State Department only supports those Cubans they believe will accept dictation by Washington planners on the political future of Cuba.

With STATE Department money and power, succeed in wrecking the anti-Communist Cuban movement the way it has helped to wreck anti-Communist resistance all over the world? Not if the American people exert the right to make foreign policy which has been traditionally theirs. Typical of this nation's virile youth is Don Cardwell of the Boston College Law Forum, who is organizing American students from Harvard, Yale, MIT, and Boston college to go on student commando raids against the Communists in Cuba with Rorke.

If a provisional Cuban government in arms were to be set up on Cuban soil it could spark a revolt of the slave peoples all over the world. **WE CAN HELP THEM DO IT!**